Filipinos than is possessed by others except this: My mode of life in the Philippines has been to live naturally and normally and to forget that the Filipinos are Filipinos. I boast of a large acquaintance with them, possibly larger than that of any other American. These friends run from the intelligentsia and former law students of mine who occupy a large percentage of governmental posts down to old Cirilo, who confides that a neighbor is trespassing on his land. I have found these Filipinos, like Americans, to be good and bad, deserving and undeserving, truthful witnesses and unmitigated liars. So let me attempt to explain the Filipino.

In the first place, the Filipino possesses national characteristics as do those of other races. What has been said a moment ago brings to notice one dominant trait of the Filipino. He is sensitive—extremely so. Why? He aspires to racial and social equality. Therefore, he is ever on the alert to note slights, fancied or real. Also, in the Filipino, delicacy of sentiment predominates, and his natural reserve is all too often rudely jarred by blunt Americans.

The most common criticism of the Filipino is to say of him that he is lazy and thriftless. Rizal, the foremost Filipino author, frankly admitted this national defect, and lectured his people on their indolence. But in reality the Filipino is industrious—by that I mean industrious under the conditions in which he must live in the tropics. Employers in the Philippines and Hawaii speak well of their laborers who, they state, are good workers. In the provinces in the Philippines, the laborers arise with the dawn and stay in the fields for long hours, but usually not in the heat of

the day, which is wise. In other words, the Filipino fits into his tropical environment.

Filipino shortcomings include his proneness to blind imitation, his lack of business sense, his easy-going ways, his slight regard for the truth, his cruelty to animals, and his love of pleasure and gambling. Without intending to extenuate these traits, they are readily explainable. The Filipino imitates